

58. (Amended) The method according to claim 56, wherein said support

member has a pad thereon so that said pad contacts the workpiece when said
transferring device is moved toward said workpiece.

59. (New) The method according to claim 56, further comprising resiliently

holding said top ring in a predetermined plane with respect to a top ring drive shaft while
moving said top ring to said transferring device so that said support member contacts
said workpiece.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 57 and 58 and added new claim 59, such that claims 1-34, 36, 39, 40, and 49-59 are now pending.

In the Office Action dated April 23, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 57 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for improper dependency upon claim 55. By this Amendment, Applicants have corrected claims 57 and 58 such that they now properly depend from independent claim 56. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112 rejection.

The Examiner also required, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.175, a supplemental declaration covering the amendments made to the pending reissue claims since the filing of the original reissue declaration. Applicants will submit the required declaration upon receiving an indication from the Examiner that the pending claims in their present form are allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request favorable examination of this application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-34, 36, 39, 40, and 49-59.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 23, 2002

By: 

Timothy J. May
Reg. No. 41,538

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com